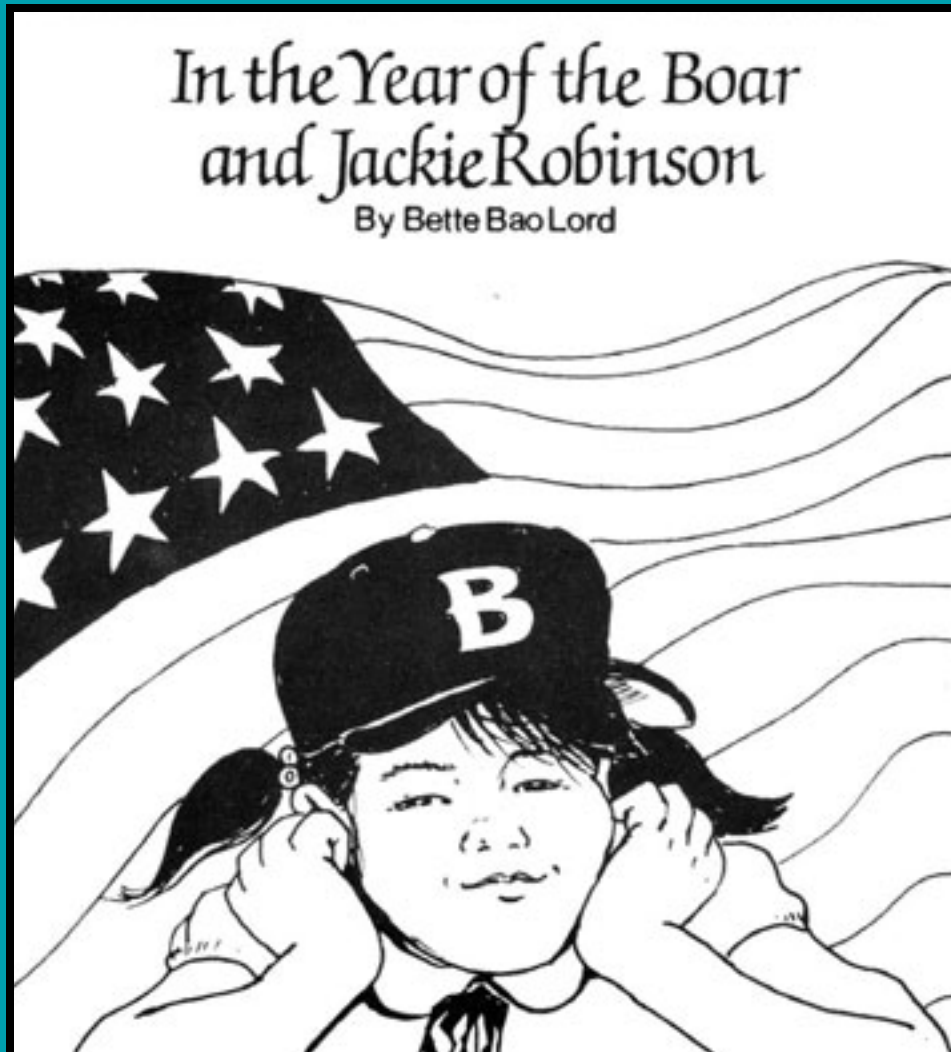


# Novel•Ties



## A Study Guide

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**LEARNING LINKS**

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its own reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

## Background Information (cont.)

### Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson is remembered as the first African American to play baseball in the major leagues. He broke the color barrier in American sports and served as a role model for all minorities.

Jackie was born in Cairo, Georgia in 1919, where his family experienced the poverty and discrimination that was the plight of African Americans in the rural South. When his father abandoned the family shortly after Jackie's birth, his mother moved them to California in a quest for a better job and educational opportunities. Working as a maid to support her family, she was barely able to make ends meet. In fact, the family suffered discrimination in California just as they had in the South. Nevertheless, Jackie managed to attend junior college and then the University of California, where he joined the basketball and football teams.

After serving in the army during World War II, Jackie's goal was to play professional baseball at a time when no other African-American players had yet done so. Overt prejudice against African Americans was common in public places in much of America at that time.

Despite team-owner Branch Rickey's warning to Jackie Robinson that he would have to meet this wall of prejudice without displaying anger in response, Robinson accepted the challenge of playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1947 he moved up from the farm team to the major leagues. He endured both the taunts and jeers of the spectators and the cool distance of his team mates. Rickey's faith in him was rewarded that year when Jackie Robinson was voted Rookie of the Year for having contributed significantly to his team's first pennant victory in six years. Jackie Robinson's courage and determination and his brilliant ten-year baseball career paved the way for other minority players in professional sports.

## JANUARY

**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1. festooned  | a. bitter disagreement lasting for a long time |
| 2. plaited    | b. command                                     |
| 3. feud       | c. decorated                                   |
| 4. decree     | d. angry                                       |
| 5. squandered | e. used senselessly; wasted                    |
| 6. irate      | f. braided                                     |

.....

- The teacher became \_\_\_\_\_ when the class would not come to order.
- The king's \_\_\_\_\_ is always obeyed by his loyal subjects.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ his allowance on candy and video games.
- The gym was \_\_\_\_\_ with colorful banners and balloons for the celebration.
- The judge settled a bitter \_\_\_\_\_ between neighbors.
- Years ago most young girls \_\_\_\_\_ their long hair.

Read to find out why Bandit changed her name to Shirley.

### Questions:

- Why did Bandit think she was being called to Grandmother's presence? What was her reaction to Grandmother's news?
- Why was Grandmother distressed that Bandit and her mother were going to America?
- How was the Chinese New Year celebrated by Bandit and her family?
- What saddened Bandit about leaving her relatives in China?
- Why did Bandit choose "Shirley Temple" as her American name?